GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department – V&E Report - Enquiry on corrupt activities in MGNREGS Scheme in Prakasam District – Initiation of disciplinary action against Sri K. Sugunakara Rao, DRO(Retd) formerly worked in Ongole Section, Ongole Range - Inquiry finalized and findings received - Provisional decision to impose a penalty of 1% cut in pension for a period of 5(five) years against the Charged Officer - Show-Cause Notice issued – Further defense statement received - Concurrence of the APPSC obtained – Final Orders –Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 15 Dated: 03-03-2021

Read the following:

1) From the D.G., V&E & E.O. Principal Secretary to Govt.GA(V&E)Dept., Vigilance Report No.61(768/V&E/NR/2016), dt:06-07-2017.
2)Memo. No.3039/Sec.IV/A2/2017, EFS&T(Section.IV) Dept., dt.16.08.2017.
3) From the PCCF Lr. Rc.No.11020/2017/Vig-1, dt. 14.08.2019.
4)Memo. No.3039/Sec.IV/A2/2017, EFS&T(Section.IV) Dept., dt.18.09.2019.
5) From the PCCF Lr. Rc.No.11020/2017/Vig-1, dt. 31.12.2019.
6)Memo. No.3039/Sec.IV/A1/2017, EFS&T(Section.IV) Dept., dt.04.11.2020.
7)From the PCCF(HoFF) Lr. Rc.No.11020/2017/Vig-1, dt.30.12.2020, together with the further defence statement dt.01.12.2020 of Sri K.Sugunakara Rao, DRO(Retd).
8)Letter No.3039/Sec.IV/A2/2017, EFS&T(Section.IV) Dept., dt.25.01.2021.
9) From the Secretary, APPSC, Lr. No.88/DC&C/2021, dt.22.02.2021.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Director General, V&E Department has informed that the V&E officials conducted enquiry on the complaint made by the Technical Assistant of Social Forest Division, Ongole on corrupt activities of forest officials in MGNREGS Scheme in Prakasam District.

2. In the Memo. 2nd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) was requested to take necessary immediate action, on the recommendations of the D.G., V&E Department and to initiate common disciplinary proceedings for major penalty against the erring officials, mentioned in the V&E Report, under Rule 24 of A.P.C.S.(CC&A) Rules, 1991.

3. In the letter 5th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) has informed that Articles of Charges were issued against Sri K. Sugunakara Rao, Deputy Range Officer(Retd) vide Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur Rc. No. 3595/2017/M3(i), dt.15.05.2018 on the following count:

Article of Charge–I:"During your tenure in Social Forestry Section, Ongole as per Estimation you have raised 50000 seedlings in ZP High School, Konijedu duly watering all the seedlings twice a day. But during inspection by the Vigilance & Enforcement authorities, it is observed that you have been watering the seedlings once a day."

Article of Charge-II:"Regarding nursery of ZP High School, Mungamuru, the Divisional Forest Officer, SF, Ongole sanctioned the 60000 bag plants (5x9) size and 32000 bag plants (8x12) size in Mungamuru (H) of Mungamuru (GP) of Santhanuthalapadu Mandal under the MGNREGS Scheme vide SO No.131/2015/TO,S35/2015-16, dt. 18.12.2015. After sanction of the estimate, you have raised 25000 seedlings on it in three sizes of bags as per feasibility and incurred an amount of Rs.83,142/-. As seen from the stock register, out of the 25000 seedlings 4200 bag seedlings were distributed to the public as per their requirement and remaining 20800 were not distributed. During field verification of the nursery by the Vigilance & Enforcement authorities, it was noticed that, out of 20800 undistributed bag seedlings, about 30% of bags were found without saplings but with weed."

Article of Charge-III:"During your tenure you have engaged your relatives to carry out the forestry works instead of the local people resulting violated the guidelines of MGNREGS Act, 2005."

Article of Charge-IV:"During his tenure the funds of MGNREGS works diverted to his mother name by Smt. K. Balamma."

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) has informed that the Charged Officer submitted his written statement of defense on 03.06.2018. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, AP, Guntur appointed Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry, Ongole as Inquiry Officer and Forest Range Officer, Ongole as Presenting Officer, for conducting regular enquiry.

5. The Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle vide reference No.3595/2017/M-3, dt.05.12.2019 & 16.12.2019 has submitted findings of the Inquiry Officer, wherein one charge against the Charged Officer is proved and the three other charges are not proved. The findings of Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer and he submitted his further defense statement on 12.06.2019.

6. The Charged Officer retired from service on 29.02.2020, on attaining the age of superannuation. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9(1) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. The entire issue has been examined and it has been provisionally decided to impose a penalty of 1%(one) cut in pension for a period of (5) years against Sri K. Sugunakara Rao, DRO(Retd) formerly worked in Ongole Section, Ongole Range, under rule 9 (1) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly a Show-Cause-Notice was issued by the Government to the retired officer vide reference 6th read above through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF). In the reference 7th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) has informed that the Charged Officer has submitted his further defence

statement, wherein he has agreed with the provisional decision of the Government.

8. The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, vide its letter 9th read above, has accorded its concurrence to the provisional decision of the Government to impose 1% cut in pension for a period of (5) five years against the retired Charged Officer.

9. After careful examination of the matter, the Government hereby order to impose a penalty of 1% (one percent) cut in pension for a period of (5) five years against the retired Charged Officer Sri K. Sugunakara Rao, DRO(Retd), formerly worked in Ongole Section, Ongole Range, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), A.P. Guntur shall take action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

VIJAY KUMAR G SRKR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur
The Individual (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).
Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E) A.P., Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
(with ref. to Lr.No.88 /DC&C/2021, dt.22.02.2021).
The PS to M (EFS&T).
The PS to Secretary to Govt., EFS&T Dept.
Sf./Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER